



Fort Riley Sports & Recreation

Friday, July 29, 2005

America's Warfighting Center

Page 13

Sports news in brief

Royals tickets available

The Kansas City Royals will offer a limited number of complimentary tickets to any military card holder and up to three family members for the home game scheduled Aug. 6, at 6:10 p.m. against the Oakland A's.

The first 20,000 fans entering will receive a free camouflage floppy cap. Pre-game activities will include a military color guard, a 21-gun salute and a Special First Pitch.

For more information contact Information, Tickets and Registration at 239-5614.

Tuttle Creek Cove to close

Tuttle Creek Cove Park will close Aug. 1, Corps of Engineers officials have announced. The park had closed this spring for the first construction phase of a new campground. The final phase of construction will begin Aug. 1.

Construction is expected to last six months and the park will be closed to all public use, including all vehicles and people on foot.

Once completed, Tuttle Creek Cove Park will have 39 new campsites with full hookups, a new shower building and vault toilets, a sanitary dump station and an entrance station.

Family Nights hosted at pools

Families can make a real splash and have lots of fun at the Custer Hill and Main Post pools' Family Fun Nights.

Family Fun Night costs \$5 per family and \$1 for each additional guest (passes not included).

Family Fun Nights will be: Aug. 5, 7-9 p.m. at Main Post Pool

Aug. 19, 8-10 p.m. at Custer Hill Pool

For more information, call 239-2813.

Gymnasts offered camp

Child and Youth Services is offering a summer gymnastic camp Aug. 1-5.

Campers must be registered with CYS, have a current sports physical and must sign up before the start of camp.

For more information, call 239-4847.

Center plans canoe trips

The Outdoor Recreation Center staff will be offering canoe trips July 30 and Aug. 20. Each trip will start at 9 a.m. and participants will be home around 3 p.m.

Participants will float from the U.S. Highway 24 bridge to St. George.

The \$15 fee includes canoe, paddles, life vest and transportation to and from the Outdoor Recreation Center.

For more information or to register, call 239-2363.

Bowling camp planned

A youth bowling camp is planned Aug. 4-12 at the Custer Hill Bowling Center on post. The camp will be two weeks long and cost \$100 per person.

For more information, call (785) 738-7104 or the Custer Hill Bowling Center at 239-4366.

Blown tires end strong Army race

By William Thurmond
Army News Service

Long Pond, Pa. — For the second time this season, a top-five capable car fell victim to tire problems, dashing hopes and bringing frustration to the Army NASCAR team.

Despite running up front and even leading for eight laps during Sunday's Pennsylvania 500,

events conspired to once again deny success to an Army crew that is better than its race results would indicate.

The race winner, current Nextel Cup defending champion Kurt Busch, started the race on the front row and surged powerfully into the lead on the first lap. And he never looked back.

For most of the afternoon, the other 42 cars merely tried to keep

Busch's Ford from becoming a distant speck on the horizon. He led for 131 of the race's 200 laps.

Veterans Rusty Wallace and Mark Martin took the second and third spots. For Wallace, who is in the midst of his 'final call' farewell tour, it was his swansong as an active Nextel Cup competitor on the 2.5 mile Pocono triangle.

Depending on which rumors

you choose to believe, Sunday's race may or may not have been Martin's last at Pocono in a Cup car. He was supposed to shift to the Craftsman Truck series next year, but garage scuttlebutt says that team owner Jack Roush may ask the veteran Martin to run one more year in the number 6 Viagra Ford.

The award for the driver who passed the most cars was captured

by fourth-place finisher Carl Edwards.

Edwards, who won the June race here, had to start at the back of the field due to the fact that another driver drove his car for him during Saturday's qualifying run. The absent Edwards was busy half-way across the country, running in the Pike's Peak Colorado Busch race, where he came

See Nemecek, Page 15

Almost there



Sean Davis of Co. A, 1st Bn., 16th Inf. slides into third as 1st Maint. Co.'s Cory Phillips prepares to get the out, July 19 during 1st Maint. Co.'s 12-10 victory over the Infantry.

Maintainers roll past Infantry, 12-10

By Eric Steggeman
ESU intern

Even when playing one player shy, Company A, 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry, gave 1st Maintenance Company a run for their money. The Maintainers capitalized on the Infantry's shortage and some power hitting to defeat the Infantry 12-10 in company level softball July 19.

Because the Infantry was short one man, it stepped to the plate each inning with an automatic out. But its bats kept the Maintainers surging to keep an upper hand.

As the visiting team, the Infantry stepped to the plate first. After a hard line drive into left field, some walked batters and a triple, the ground pounders led 5-0.

The scrambling Maintainers kept their cool, though, and clouted a few of their own, including a double that helped them bag three runs to stay close to the leaders.

When the top of the second inning ended, it appeared the Infantry had burned themselves out. Fast defensive play by the Maintainers kept the Infantry scoreless in the

second and third innings.

The Maintainers' offense continued to click, highlighted by a hot triple in the bottom of the second. Lavern Wilson followed that with an in-the-park home run and the Maintainers led 9-5 after two innings.

A double in the bottom of the third brought home another 1st Maint. Co. run.

The Infantry regrouped in the fourth inning. Two doubles in the top of the fourth scored three more runs, but it wasn't enough to pierce the well-maintained home team defense.

The situation called for a change in plans. Slowing their pace even more after their first inning burnout, the Infantry stretched the bottom of the fourth by pitching lots of balls and few strikes.

Calling the Infantry's bluff, many 1st Maint. Co. batters took the offered walks and scored one of their two runs by walking across home plate. A pop fly out ended the stretched fourth inning.

The Infantry tallied two more runs in the top of the fifth, but time played against them and the umpire called the game at the end of the allotted hour.



Paul Hearst of Co. A, 1st Bn., 16th Inf. sprints to first base as Richard Bragg of 1st Maint. Co. attempts to get the out, July 19.



Post/Blackmon
K-State student Joe Moore of Green, Kan., checks his watch as he crosses the 10-miler finish line in 55:10.

K-Stater wins Post 10-miler

Some 200 race in annual Prairie Run

By April Blackmon
Senior staff writer

It took less than an hour for the first 10-mile runner to cross the finish line, for an average of 5:50 minutes a mile.

K-State student Joe Moore, of Green, Kan., won the 10-mile race with a time of 55:10.

Green was one of nearly 200 runners participating in the 10-five and two-mile Prairie Run July 23 at Fort Riley.

"I don't know if I took them down, I was just the last man standing," Moore said of the competition, adding that the heat was a definite challenge to the race.

Moore only won by 39 seconds, however, as Dan Boyle of Manhattan came in second in 55:49.

See Prairie Run, Page 14

Butterflies pollinate Fort Riley's prairie lands

By Carla Hurlbert
Fish and Wildlife Biologist

An ideal family outdoor activity is butterfly watching. Butterflies are small, they don't bite or sting and they are the kinds of wildlife people like to see around the house. Fort Riley is a good place to see the beauty of butterflies flying about pollinating the prairie.

Butterflies belong to the fourth largest order of insects, called



Carla Hurlbert

Lepidoptera.

The scientific name comes from the Greek word "lepis," meaning "scale" and "ptera," meaning "wings." Butterflies have four wings covered with

On the Wildside: News About Nature

tiny, shingle-like scales and mouthparts that form a hollow, flexible tube like a drinking straw. Butterflies use their antennae for balance in flight and olfactory (smell) sensation. The antennae allow the butterfly to continue to fly and navigate even with damaged wings. The antennae have knobs or clubs on the tip that are used for smell. Remarkably, males can detect the pheromones

released by females over a mile away.

Butterflies prefer open, sunny settings and can be found in flowery fields, meadows and hillsides; along stream banks, roadsides and the edge of woods; and in clearings, glades and nature reserves of all sorts.

Especially large numbers of butterflies can be found in prairies, arctic and alpine tundra,

and deserts following spring or summer rains.

The best way to see a good variety of butterflies is to visit places where human settlement has not greatly disrupted native habitats.

Butterflies locate potential mates by sight, identifying the wing colors and patterns characteristic of their species. In some types of butterflies, males and

See Butterflies, Page 14





Sports news in brief

Class needed to rent boat

Any person born on or after Jan. 1, 1989, and younger than 21 must complete an approved boater safety education course in order to operate a motorboat or sailboat on Kansas's public waters.

People who fall into that age category may operate a motorboat or sailboat if they are accompanied by and under the direct supervision of a person older than 17 who possesses a certificate of completion for an approved boater safety education course or is exempt from this requirement. The certification is required of anyone wishing to rent a boat from the Outdoor Recreation Center.

For more information, call the Outdoor Recreation Center at 239-2363.

Fitness centers post age policy

A recently revised age policy is in effect for the fitness centers on post. Children 12 years old and younger are not authorized to use any mechanical, strength or cardio equipment, saunas or steam room.

Eligible youth who are 15 and younger must be participating in the same activity and under the direct supervision of a parent or guardian. This policy includes the use of basketball and racquetball courts.

Children age 12 and younger are not permitted into the free weight or cardio areas while a parent or guardian works out.

Center offers shooting aid

The Outdoor Recreation Center, Building 9011 on Rifle Range Road, offers a Laser Shot Shooting Simulation System to help hunters improve their shooting. The system can be used for a rental fee of \$5 per person per hour or a group rate of \$15 per half hour or \$25 per hour.

Outdoor Rec is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday.

For more information, call 239-2363.

Guard eligible for free licenses

The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks will offer Kansas residents who also are members of the Kansas Army or Air National Guard free hunting and fishing licenses and free state park permits beginning Jan. 1, 2005.

The new program was created by the state legislature as a way to show the state's appreciation for its citizen Soldiers.

Application forms for the 2005 licenses will be available in November and can be downloaded from the KDWP Web site at www.kdwp.state.ks.us. The forms must be signed by the member's unit commander and mailed to KDWP with photocopies of appropriate documentation.

Extreme bowl offered on post

Extreme bowling — bowling under strobe lights — is offered at discounts for families and individual soldiers using Custer Hill Lanes on post.

Families can bowl in the extreme conditions from 4 to 6 p.m. on Saturdays and from 5 to 7 p.m. on Sundays for \$10 per family per lane. They can rent bowling shoes for \$1 a pair.

Soldiers can bowl under the extreme conditions from 10 p.m. Fridays to 1 a.m. Saturdays and from 10 p.m. Saturdays to 1 a.m. Sundays for \$11 per person.

For more information, call 239-4366.

Gym offers exercise variety

Staff report

Several types of personal fitness classes are offered at King Field House. Authorized users of the facility can take part in the following:

Target Heart Rate Training

Learn to train at a personal target heart rate for efficient and safe results.

This coached workout alternates moderate, steady cardio training with strong, high-intensity moments.

The last 15 minutes are dedicated to rock hard abs, lower back strengthening and a full body stretch.

Cardio Pump (Aerobics Classes) Monday

and Wednesday 5:45 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.

All fitness levels are encouraged to attend. Mondays tend to be traditional step class.

On Wednesday, get two workouts in one with step and resistance equipment (bands, balls, tubes, etc.)

Fitness Yoga

Monday and Thursday noon to 1 p.m. A non-purist yoga class for all fitness levels.

This lunchtime class integrates body and mind for a total performance featuring strength, conditioning, flexibility and time to calm the mind.

Cost is \$2 per person or \$1.50 per class, if paid monthly.

Body Circuits

A full body workout using sta-

tions for constant variety and non-stop movement.

This class allows the individual to gain familiarity with dumbbells, Nautilus equipment and cable equipment.

Cardio Training Express

Develop cardio skills in two free sessions of intensive learning and training with a specialized instructor.

This class is a jump-start to a cardio program for a new exerciser as well as providing motivation and direction for veterans.

Session I reviews principles and components of cardio training. Session II contains demonstrations and hands-on time with different cardio equipment.

Cardio Challenge

This challenge involves different modes of cardiovascular exercise all within one workout.

Various pieces of equipment may be used, including the bike, treadmill, stair climber, cross trainer and elliptical.

Weight Training Express

Develop weight training skills in two sessions of intensive learning with personal instructor.

This class provides motivation and direction for those who've been pumping iron for a while as well as new lifters.

Session I reviews principles and components of weight training.

Session II includes demonstrations and hands-on time in the weight room, learning proper form, breathing and stretching.

Softball scores July 19

172nd Chem. Co. defeated the 383rd Regt., 8-6.

MEDDAC beat 101st FSB, 15-8.

The 300th MP Co. won by forfeit against the 15th Finance Co.

The 383rd Regt. also won by forfeit against 15th Finance Co.

Co. A, 1st Bn., 16th Inf. won by forfeit against both the 924th MPs and the 977th MP Co.

Co. C, 1st Eng. Bn., won by forfeit against the 10th ASOS.

Look for company and battalion softball tournament coverage in next week's Post.

Butterflies

continued from page 13

females display different patterns on their wings. In other species, the wing markings look the same to the human eye, but either the males or females have scales on their wings that reflect ultraviolet light, producing patterns that enable the butterflies to distinguish one sex from the other.

Female butterflies usually lay their eggs on or near plants suitable for the young to eat. Most eggs hatch in two or three days or light, producing patterns that enable the butterflies to distinguish one sex from the other.

Lepidoptera are holometabolous, meaning they have three distinct morphological stages: larva, pupa and adult. The

egg hatches into a larva called a caterpillar. Caterpillars are voracious eaters and grow rapidly. Most types molt — shed their skin — four or five times as they grow.

Once the caterpillar reaches its full size, it prepares to complete its metamorphosis — the radical change in body form that turns a caterpillar into a butterfly. Metamorphosis takes place inside the pupa.

Most caterpillars pupate by attaching themselves to a twig or other support. The pupal stage may last anywhere from one week to several years, depending on the species and the weather.

When its development is complete, the adult butterfly splits the

pupal shell and crawls out. It unfolds its wings and pumps blood into the veins, and then spreads its wings like a kite until they dry and harden.

Most adult butterflies live just one or two weeks. A few types, such as anglewings and the migratory generation of monarchs, may live six months or more.

Adult butterflies feed mainly on flower nectar and other sugars, such as those contained in the sap of wounded trees, rotting fruit and fluids excreted by certain vines.

Birds, bats, lizards, spiders and various insects, including dragonflies, ambush bugs, robber flies and praying mantis are common predators.

The greatest enemies of caterpillars are parasites. Certain wasps and flies lay their eggs on caterpillars and sometimes on eggs and pupae as well. When the parasites hatch they burrow into the caterpillar and consume the caterpillar's tissues from within, eventually killing it.

Only a few lepidopterans conduct a regular, back-and-forth, birdlike migration. The most famous butterfly migrant is the monarch. It lives throughout the continental United States and southern Canada during the summer. In the fall, adult monarchs migrate to overwintering sites in the mountains of central Mexico or the California coast.

Only a few butterflies are considered destructive. The cabbage butterfly and its larvae damage cabbage, broccoli and related crops. The caterpillar of the giant swallowtail, known as the orange dog, feeds on citrus plants and sometimes damages commercial citrus crops.

Butterflies are crucial parts of the ecosystems in which they live. Their most important ecological role is in pollination — the transfer of pollen from one flower to another — which helps plants to reproduce. Butterflies pollinate many wild plants as well as important crops grown by humans for food.



Post/Blackman

Five and 10-mile Prairie Run racers begin their treks July 23 on Fort Riley.

Prairie Run

continued from page 13

Marla Rhoden of Topeka won the overall women's 10-miler with a time of 75:52.

Ben Delay of Manhattan won the five-mile with a time of 26:58. Robin Blanton of Manhattan won the overall female five-mile run with a time of 32:41.

Jonathan Conard of Junction City won the two-miler with a time of 12:11. Jocelyn Aguilar of Fort Riley won the overall women's two-miler with a time of 15:19.

2-mile race 12 and under

Male: Joey Aguilar, Fort Riley, 15:10

Female: Jocelyn Aguilar, 15:19

13-17 years

Male: Chris Bertucci, Fort Riley, 13:05

Female: Nikki Martineau, Fort Riley, 18:48

18-25 years

Male: Caleb Ekane, MED-DAC, 13:03

Female: Susana Garcia, 523rd MP Co., 17:39

26-35 years

Male: Jonathan Conard, Junction City, 12:11

Female: Clessie Lemay, Fort Riley, 22:29

36-45 years

Male: Mike Bertucci, 2nd Bn. 289th Regt., 16:50

Female: Molly Iverson, Manhattan, 17:47

46-55 years

Male: John Strait, Salina, 16:19

Marcia Allen, Manhattan, 17:14

56 and older

Male: Mark Coward, Hutchinson, 20:40

5-mile race 17 and under

Male: Curtiss Feltner, Manhattan, 29:17

18-25 years

Male: Ben Delay, Manhattan, 26:58

Female: Carley Blunt, Topeka, 55:10

26-35 years

Male: David Sarette, HHC, 24th Inf. Div. (Mech), 35:31

Female: Robin Blanton, Manhattan, 32:41

36-45 years

Male: Jay Hildenbrand, 3rd Bde., 75th Div., 33:18

Female: Teresa Cobb, Fort Riley, 51:01

46-55 years

Male: David Zlab, Tescott, 36:31

56 and over

Male: Kenneth Sampson, HHC, 24th Inf. Div. (Mech), 47:57

10-mile race

18-25 years

Male: Joe Moore, Green, 55:10

Female: Jenny Kirk, 1st Eng. Bn., 82:29

26-35 years

Male: Michael Adams, 3rd Bde., 75th Div., 62:36

Female: Angie Indra, Emporia, 76:08

36-45 years

Male: Dan Boyle, Manhattan, 55:49

Female: Joyce Adams, Manhattan, 78:12

46-55 years

Male: Marc Moore, Green, 67:57

Female: Marla Rhoden, Topeka, 75:52

56 and older

Male: Gene Wee, Lawrence, 77:22

Female: Donna Romans, Kansas City, Mo., 96:57

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Dwayne Moore -- Army car's rear tire guy

By William Thurmond
Army News Service

Long Pond, Pa. — At an age when most young people are just getting up to speed, one Army crewman can barely find the time to slow down.

Most 20 year-olds have dreams about where their lives will take them. Dwayne Moore is living his.

Moore is a pit crewman on Joe Nemechek's 01 Army Chevrolet. During the team's 14-second pit stops he carries and mounts the car's rear tires.

He's been working in NASCAR about two and a half years. When he turned 16 he started working for the Richard Petty Driving Experience, mounting and dismounting tires for race fans eager to get a taste of speed.

That was just the beginning. Things happened quickly for the teenage crewman, who found himself rising to the pinnacle of American stock car racing in less than five years.

His first NASCAR jobs were with Busch series teams. Last year he worked on the Richard

Childress Racing number 21 Reese's Chevrolet, driven by Kevin Harvick.

Then an observant pit coach spotted Moore and asked him if he wanted to move up to NASCAR's top rank and join the Army Team.

Duh. And he hasn't looked back.

Moore is a native of Hampton Ga. He currently calls Troutman N.C. home, where he lives with his wife Stephanie and their one-year old son Austin, who celebrated his first birthday this past week.

Life in NASCAR, like life in today's Army, means a lot of nights away from home. Between races and testing sessions, Moore will be gone as many as 150 nights this year. That's difficult for a new dad. But that's what happens when you're good at your job.

Apparently, Nemechek likes Moore's work as well.

Now most weekends find him doing double duty. While his Army crew buddies tweak their 01 Chevrolet in the Nextel garage between qualifying and Sunday's

race, Moore dons a Busch Series firesuit and works the pits for Joe Nemechek's number 87 CellularOne racecar. He carries front tires on that car.

"You can never spend enough time practicing for this job," said Moore. "When I first started I lived it. I dreamed about pit stops. I'd go home and watch tapes of pit stops."

Nemechek's over-the-wall crew spends about three days each week back at their Mooresville shop talking, studying and working to shave as little as a second off of their best times. They know that a second in the pits can translate into positions on the track.

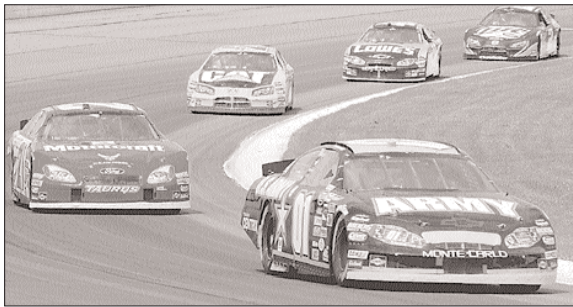
"We practice pit stops for several hours between races, in addition to just working on the cars," said Moore.

In a job as fast-paced as his, Moore knows that it's all about the teamwork.

"My tire changer (David Woodhead) is one of the best on this pit road. I'm a lucky man to be paired up with him. If we're not working together, Joe can't have a good stop."



Dwayne Moore (right) and some of his fellow Army pit crew team-mates during a green flag at Dover earlier this year. Army News Service/Thurmond



Joe Nemechek's 01 Army Chevrolet leads Ricky Rudd's Motorcraft Genuine Parts / U.S. Air Force Ford through Pocono Raceway's turn three during the Pennsylvania 500. Army News Service/Thurmond

Nemechek continued from page 13

in 34th due to mechanical problems.

Much of the afternoon it appeared that Joe Nemechek's Army Chevrolet would finish well. For over half of the race it was never out of the top 10. And for much of the day Nemechek was battling with others for spots in the top five.

Cagey pit strategy by Army crew chief Ryan Pemberton kept Nemechek on the track when the rest of the field pitted for two cautions, earning the team crucial track position.

With his pit window calculated to within a lap or two of running the fuel cell dry, Nemechek was poised to conduct a green flag stop on lap 163.

Unfortunately, his left front tire

only made it to lap 162.5.

"Timing is everything," said crew chief Ryan Pemberton. "Had Joe made it onto pit road before the caution light came on, we would have been in first place when the pit stops cycled out. We were only a few feet shy of making it."

After multiple stops to repair the damage caused by the shredded tire, Nemechek restarted in 25th place, determined to get his Army Chevy back to the front.

But it was not to be.

Hit from behind late in the race, he spun out onto the backstretch grass and suffered more damage.

"We suffered some major damage in that incident," said Nemechek. "I came down pit road three times for repairs. We just

hung on at the end to get the best result we could."

Nemechek finished the race in the 22nd position.

"One of these days things are going to go our way and we'll be up there fighting for the win at the end," Nemechek continued. "I had a great car today as I have had all year. I'm frustrated right now, but not discouraged. This is a good team and we just have to keep plugging away."

"Kurt had the best car today - no doubt about that," said Nemechek. "Our Army Chevy was equally as good or better than any other car."

After a well deserved week off, the Army team will do battle on Aug. 7 at the famed Brickyard in Indianapolis, Ind.

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Fort Riley Community Life

Friday, July 15, 2005

America's Warfighting Center

Page 16

Community news briefly

Swim lessons scheduled

Swimming lessons are available at the Custer Hill Outdoor Pool Aug. 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18, 19. Cost is \$20 per child. For more information, call 239-9441.

Classes	Time
Level I	9:30-10 a.m. 4-4:30 p.m.
Level II	10-10:30 a.m. 4:30-5 p.m.
Level III	10:30-11 a.m. 5-5:30 p.m.
Level IV	5:30-6 p.m.

School, sports physicals set

School and sports physicals are being offered Aug. 13 at Irwin Army Community Hospital. Completed parent's portion of the physical form and your child's shot records will help to expedite the visit.

Forms are available at the Patient Assistance Desk in the main entrance of the hospital. Special needs and CDC physicals will not be offered at this physical fair, but will be done on an individual basis through your Primary Care Team. For appointments, call 239-3627 or 1-888-239-3627.

Students can now enroll

All Geary County Unified School District 475 students, which include Fort Riley residents, should be receiving mail-in enrollment packets for the upcoming school year. Enrollment information should be submitted and fees paid by Aug. 1.

New elementary student enrollment will be 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Aug. 3 at each school. Enrollment for new middle school students will be from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Aug. 3 and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Aug. 4 at each school. Enrollment for new high school students will be from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Aug. 4 and 4 to 7 p.m. Aug. 9 and 11 at the school.

Army Soldier Show coming

The 2005 U.S. Army Soldier Show comes to the Fort Riley area Aug. 3 and 4. Sixteen of the Army's most talented Soldiers will perform in a high-energy family-friendly music and dance production guaranteed to entertain everyone in the audience.

Show time is 7 p.m. each day at Kansas State University's McCain Auditorium. Admission is free. Tickets are available at the Information, Ticketing and Registration Office across the parking lot from the Main Post Exchange.

Teen Center activities set

Aug. 5 - Video game tournaments

Aug. 6 - Jamaica-me-clean luau

For more information, call the Teen Center at 239-9222.

Youth services activities posted

Aug. 1, 8 a.m.-5:45 p.m., Kaleidoscope Museum Trip, Group 1, Kindergarten
Aug. 2, 8 a.m.-5:45 p.m., Gage Park, Kindergarten
Aug. 5, 8:30 a.m.-5:45 p.m., Rock Springs Ranch, 1st-5th grade.
For more information, call 239-9173.

'Dreadnaughts,' families video-chat

Morgan Hanson
KSU intern

"The families have a lot to be proud of in their Soldiers," was the recurring message from a video teleconference (VTC) held July 15 between officers of the 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor, 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division in Iraq and their counterparts and families at Fort Riley.

Capt. Dana Stowell, Rear Detachment commander, said the message was reciprocated from the counterparts and spouses at the VTC that the Soldiers can be proud of their families back at home.

Stowell organized the VTC with several others, including Sgt. 1st Class Hans Kwoka, Rear Detachment 1st Sergeant; Val Hall, battalion Family Readiness

Group (FRG) adviser; Debi Creed, FRG co-leader; and 10 other FRG leaders and points of contact.

Joining the VTC from Iraq were Lt. Col. Oscar Hall, battalion commander; Maj. Rich Creed of battalion training, plans and operations section; Capt. Jim Dobson, Headquarters and Headquarters Company commander; Capt. Andy Turner, Company A

commander and Capt. Jason Spencer, acting Company C commander.

Debi Creed, wife of Maj. Rich Creed, talked about how good it was to see the command group.

"I just couldn't stop staring," she said. "It was almost like they were with us."

Stowell added, "It was good to be able to see everyone looking good, in good spirits and doing

well."

The command group expressed that all the Soldiers are doing an outstanding job, spirits are good and morale is high. They are very proud of their Soldiers, Creed said.

While it would have been nice to allow all spouses and families in on the VTC, there was only room for 16 people in the confer-

See Video chat, Page 17

Wild side



Post/Steggeman

The "Perfect Girls" group, from left to right: Jasmine Gatlin, 9, Shawnae Cortijo, 9, Allie Beery, 6, Hunter Caron, 8 and Leslie Cragil, 10, begin construction on their recycled city. They received an award for the most creative city design using lots of magazine clippings.

Local girls build own cities

By Eric Steggeman
ESU intern

Local girls were given the chance to run wild with their imaginations - if for only two hours a day.

Volunteers from the Girl Scouts of Junction City, the local chapters of the Boys and Girls Clubs of America and the 648th Area Support Group, United States Army Reserve, sponsored the Born to Be Wild activity program.

The program gave 29 local girls, in grades kindergarten through 12th grade, a chance to learn about the environment, endangered animals, and how recycling can improve their homes and community. The girls participated in the week-long activity program that ran from 10 a.m. to noon, July

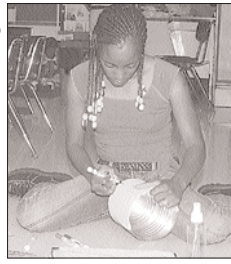
18-22 at Ware Elementary School.

Nina Keeler, program organizer, said the program's purpose was to help participants understand ecology, land ethics and their part in the preservation of nature.

Each day of the program involved two major activities; an environmentally themed lesson on preventing pollution and the opportunity to construct a city out of recyclable materials.

Every day the girls focused on a form of environmental pollution. On Monday, for example, the girls learned how water pollution, such as oil, can harm animals and plants. By finding what materials could best absorb oil from a bowl of water, the girls learned the best ways to clean up an oil spill before it spreads.

See Be wild, Page 17



Post/Steggeman

Volunteer Julia Jones works on a billboard for a building in Cheetah Town, a city her daughter, Angelina, 8, helped construct.

Post to host Night Out

Eric Steggeman
ESU intern

Fort Riley residents can spend a night out with the men and women who work to keep them safe.

The staff at the Fort Riley Provost Marshal's Office will sponsor a community awareness fair in honor of National Night Out from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Aug. 2 at the Fort Riley Teen Center.

The event will feature displays and demonstrations that are intended to increase the Fort Riley community's awareness of the many community support teams active on post.

Staff Sgt. Michael Barnes, PMO civil liaison, encourages residents from all over Fort Riley to attend the day-long events and demonstrations with their families. Events include a demonstration by the Military Police K-9 Division at 1 p.m., Barnes said. There will be several animals available for adoption from the Fort Riley Veterinarian Clinic as well.

Children who bring their bicycles will be able to participate in the MP Bike Patrol's bicycle safety course. Bike safety habits will be put to the test, as well as demonstrating proper knowledge in proper bicycle safety and equipment use. Families can also enter a drawing for one of two new children's bicycles donated by the Post Exchange.

The last event takes place at each family's home. Families are asked to turn on their front step lights and spend at least an hour on their porches, patios or front steps. This is the traditional symbol of National Night Out's community awareness, Barnes said, as it will be something that families across the nation and across the world "will all be doing at the same time."

The importance of this event is "a mish-mash variety," Barnes said. The event gathers communi-

See Night Out, Page 21

Marriage and Military Life

We need to work more to lower military divorces

By Gene-Thomas Gomulka
Retired Navy Chaplain

Dear Gene-Thomas, I entered the military at the age of 18; married at 19; had a child with my wife when I was 20; and ended up divorced at the age of 22. My failed marriage experience soured me on military life and I left. While I have not remarried, I live daily with the emotional and financial consequences of marrying too young.

You may want to use your weekly column to discourage others from making the same mistake.

-Mike

About the author

Gene-Thomas Gomulka is a retired Navy chaplain and author of "The Survival Guide for Marriage in the Military," available at www.plaintec.net

Have a question? Write Gene-Thomas at letters@plaintec.net

Dear Mike,

I regret that you and so many other military personnel married very young only to find yourselves divorced so soon thereafter. Unfortunately, I'm not at all surprised by

our high military divorce rates. How many people do you think we allowed them to parachute without going to jump school? Hence, until the armed services



require and offer better relationship training and materials, military personnel will continue to marry and divorce at much higher rates than their civilian counterparts.

Months before USA Today and Stars and Stripes recently reported significant increases in military divorces, David Chu, Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, was contacted and urged to implement recommendations contained in an earlier AOSD report calling for "Premarital education programs within each service carefully designed to ensure readiness, timeliness, and relevance." Unfortunately, DoD

appears to be responding to this recommendation the same way it dealt with contractors who, aware of what was happening in Iraq, offered to provide better armor for our vehicles. Growing numbers of military marriages will continue to "crash and burn" until DoD ensures that military personnel, particularly recruits, are provided with proper premarital training.

This problem does not only involve enlisted personnel, but officers as well. While it was reported that Army enlisted divorces increased by 28 percent between 2003 and 2004, Army

See Divorces, Page 17

You can find the Fort Riley Post online at www.riley.army.mil





Teddy Troopers 'jump' into arms of Iraqi children

By Derek Del Rosario
AFPS

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – They can be seen parachuting into various areas around Baghdad – specially trained individuals recruited during Operation Iraqi Freedom 3, whose primary mission is to bring smiles to the faces of Iraqi children.

These airborne "Soldiers" are actually "Teddy Troopers" or "Para-Bears." stuffed animals with makeshift parachutes jumping into the arms and hearts of children during Operation Teddy Drop.

The commander for this unique operation is Army Chief Warrant Officer 4 Randy Kirgiss, a pilot with Company C, 4th Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment (Assault Helicopter). He said he started the airborne mission as a way to impact the lives of Iraqi children.

Kirgiss began the operation in mid-April, inspired by previous humanitarian efforts he had witnessed, as well as by Col. Gail Halvorsen, the "Berlin candy bomber" who dropped candy to German children during the Berlin Airlift.

"I got the idea from a lot of my friends who conducted humanitarian missions on some of my previous deployments," Kirgiss said. "In Bosnia, I saw school supplies donated; in Kosovo, teddy bears were given out. I wanted to model something after the Candy Bomber who parachuted bags of candy to kids. It was from this idea that Operation Teddy Drop began."

In order for his airborne humanitarian mission to get off the ground, Kirgiss needed support from his chain of command, his unit, and from friends and family to help him gather the stuffed animals.

He said he had the support of his company and battalion commanders. "They were very supportive, and they helped me brainstorm ideas to make the operation run safely and smoothly, he said.

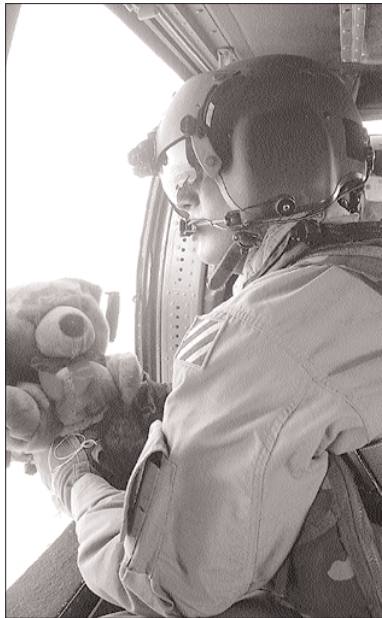
In conjunction with his official

flight missions, Kirgiss brings boxes of stuffed animals with makeshift parachutes along with him. When he sees a child down below, he instructs a crewmember to drop a Teddy Trooper.

"There is a mission to be done,

but dropping bears doesn't take away from that mission," Kirgiss said. "We have the assets to do both our mission and execute Operation Teddy Drop effectively."

Kirgiss originally told a group



AFPS/Del Rosario
Spec. Benjamin Kepenke, a crew chief with Co. C, 4th Bn., 3rd Aviation Regt. (Assault Helicopter), prepares a "Teddy Trooper" for its descent to children below. Operation Teddy Drop is a humanitarian mission geared to give teddy bears to Iraqi children.

of eight friends and family members about the operation. He received help in the form of donated stuffed animals and parachute supplies. The original network of eight grew immensely, and Kirgiss began to receive donations from everywhere around the States – receiving old parachutes and boxes of teddy bears. Kirgiss is even getting a donation from a well-known teddy bear manufacturer.

"Originally, I just wanted my friends and families to look into their kid's closet to find old teddy bears to donate," said Kirgiss. "When unit members started talking, through word of mouth it just got out, and now I get donations from everywhere."

Kirgiss spends most of his free time, usually at night, making the parachutes for the Teddy Troopers. The airborne recruits come in all shapes and sizes, so specialized parachutes usually have to be made. Using material from old, donated parachutes, Kirgiss makes the parachutes that are best suited for his troopers so they can complete their "mission." It takes Kirgiss approximately three minutes to make each chute, he said.

The unit's largest recruit

jumped May 21 as part of the largest drop in the unit's short history.

"We received eight boxes of donated stuffed animals one day. The boxes stacked to my ceiling," Kirgiss said. "The following day we dropped (more than) 200 stuffed animals, including the largest one we have ever received – a bear that was about 3 feet tall and weighed around six pounds. I needed to make a special chute for that trooper."

Kirgiss tries to get the plush toys to all kids, but his main aim is to get them to the poorer Iraqi children in the countryside.

"It can be a safety hazard to drop them in the city. We don't want kids running into the streets to get them," said Kirgiss, also the safety officer of the company. "When we can, we try to send the bears to urban and poorer areas, and for each kid we see we send down a bear so there is no fighting among the children."

Sending these Teddy Troopers on their mission is very fulfilling for Kirgiss. He said he enjoys seeing the smiles on their faces when they get hold of their new stuffed animals. "It's a great thing to see, even from 200 feet above," Kirgiss said.

"When we see those kids wave and we send down a bear, most kids will not know what it is at first. Some hide behind their parents, some stay back in hesitation, but once they see that parachute open, they know what it is and go running toward it. Some even catch them before they hit the ground."

More than 900 Para-Bears have bravely "jumped" since the start of the operation.

It is Kirgiss' hope to continue the humanitarian mission for the duration of his deployment and hopefully pass on the operation to the next aviation unit that comes to Taji.

For Kirgiss, it is a personally gratifying experience to be a part of the operation – an operation he hopes will have an impact on the future.

"It is something I find very fun and constructive," he said. "Talking about it also helps me stay grounded to my two young children. I can't help but think that somewhere down the line we might be influencing the future decision makers of Iraq. This operation is only a small way to show that we are human and compassionate. We are soldiers, but we are humane as well."

Be wild continued from page 16

Representatives from the Milford Nature Center spoke to the girls on Wednesday about endangered animals and how many species are becoming extinct. Maribel Perez, 9, said that this was one of her favorite activities. She said she was surprised to see her favorite animal, the tiger, on the list.

"I didn't know that all these animals were endangered... and that some can be extinct," Perez said. "I love tigers and I think tigers are pretty."

Once the environmental activities were done for the day, the girls divided into groups of five to begin building their cities. Using their imaginations, they turned milk jugs into schools and cafes and egg cartons taped to soda cans into factories.

"I think their favorite activity was the cities," said Julianne Black, Girl Scout volunteer. "They put their hearts into it."

By the end of the week, the girls took a post-test to review the materials they had learned by the

environmental activities and the presenters.

Awards were presented for the tallest structures, sturdiest structures, most creative building designs, most environmentally conscious city theme, most organized city and the city with the greatest variety of items used in its construction.

The girls learned that recycling was important because, as Christina Johnson, 8, said, "it would make the cities be less stinky."

Video chat continued from page 16

ence room, Stowell said.

"With more than 390 families, it just was not feasible," he said.

To involve the family members, however, questions and concerns were collected prior to the VTC to ask of the command group in Iraq. The most common question asked when the Soldiers are coming home, Stowell said.

"Lieutenant Colonel Hall did an excellent job answering the questions," Creed said, noting that

the Soldiers' return is dependent on when the battalion completes its mission.

Many Soldiers and their families are investing in webcams to communicate during deployment, Stowell said.

"I am happy with e-mail and instant messaging," Debi Creed said, who has been a military spouse for 11 years.

She added that she usually communicates daily with her hus-

band while he is deployed.

The VTC will be the only one for the unit while they are in Iraq because the technology where they are stationed is not sufficient, and the command group had to travel to another location for the VTC, Stowell said.

"It was great that the command group took time out of the middle of the night prior to a mission to communicate with counterparts and their families," Stowell added.

Divorces continued from page 16

official divorces during that same period increased by 78 percent. Unfortunately, apart from a premarital program implemented at the U.S. Naval Academy by Chaplain Miles Barrett for engaged First Class Catholic midshipmen, I have no evidence to show that chaplains at the other service academies are providing cadets with effective interactive self-grading premarital materials to lower their chances of joining the growing percentage of young divorced officers.

The failure on the part of the armed services to provide better relationship training during basic training and at service academies contributes to the large number of military personnel who marry younger than their civilian counterparts. While the median age for first marriages in the United States is 27 for men and 25 for women, many military personnel continue to marry, and subsequently divorce, in their early 20s. Even though the military employs chaplains and counselors to help service members make wise decisions about marriage, divorce and remarriage that can not only impact their lives, but also the lives of their spouses and children, many military personnel are hesi-

tant to avail themselves of their services out of concern for privacy. For example, a service member might be concerned what could happen if, in the course of counseling or in the completion of a questionnaire graded by a professional, it became known that he had a problem with his temper. Could he be investigated for possible abuse? Could he possibly even lose his security clearance? It is because of these concerns that many military people marry, divorce and remarry often without seeking professional help from either military chaplains and family support counselors, or civilian counselors contracted by Military One Source who offer up to six free counseling sessions.

The only way to improve efforts to help military personnel is by providing them with assistance in a format that does not threaten their privacy or their careers. If Chief Master Sgt. Anthony Buggage, the superintendent of the Family Support Center at McChord Air Force Base, reordered interactive self-help relationship materials within six months of his first order, it was not because his base did not have talented counselors, chaplains or effective programs, but because he saw how his Airmen were more

receptive to utilizing tools (similar to home pregnancy tests) that did not require them to potentially compromise their privacy by meeting with a counselor or chaplain. Until more people within DoD and the armed services provide enlisted and officers with effective premarital and marital materials, I believe that more people (like yourself) will continue to marry prematurely often only to find themselves divorced within a few years.

You can't go back in time and not marry and divorce as you did, but you can learn from the past and be better prepared the next time you ask someone, "Will you marry me?" Before anyone asks that heart stopping question, I strongly recommend that they take time together to complete a self-grading inventory (e.g., Marriage and Military Life) or any number of professionally administered civilian-oriented ones (e.g., Prepare FOCUS). By using one of these effective relationship tools, you can access your strengths and weaknesses and, ultimately, enhance your chances of having a long-lasting and happy marriage.

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Leisuretime ideas

At the movies:

The Barlow Theater doors open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$3.50 for adults and \$1.75 for children 11 and under. Children under age 5 are free except during children's matinees or expected sell-outs.

July 29 – Batman Begins (PG-13)

July 30 – 7 p.m., Land of the Dead (R)

July 31 – 7 p.m., Batman Begins (PG-13)

Aug. 4 – The Perfect Man (PG)

Aug. 5, 7 – War Of the Worlds (PG-13)

Aug. 6 – 2 p.m., Herbie: Fully Loaded (G)

Aug. 6, 11 – Bewitched (PG-13)

For more information, call 784-2226 or 784-2640.

Manhattan:

What: Riley County 4-H Fair, 4-H and open class exhibits, parade, livestock, children's tractor pull, carnival, turtle races, and PRCA rodeo.

When: 6 p.m. to dark July 28, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. July 29 through Aug. 1

Where: CiCo Park, Riley County Fairgrounds

Phone: (785) 537-6350

Admission: Free

...

What: Kansas Shrine Bowl. The parade will have band members, football players, and all types of parade units from all of the five Shrine Temples across Kansas. The football players must be seniors in high school and are picked by coach's across Kansas.

When: parade 10 a.m., game 7 p.m. July 29-30

Where: Wagner Field, Kansas State University

Phone: (785) 776-8829

Admission: Charge for game

Abilene:

What: Wild Bill Hickok PRCA Rodeo. Named one of the top five outdoor small rodeos of America. Three nights of the best cowboys in America

When: 7:30 p.m. Aug. 4-6

Where: Wild Bill Hickok Rodeo arena

Phone: (785) 263-4570 or (800) 569-5915

Admission: \$10 at gate; \$8 in advance

...

What: Western Heritage Festival. Old-fashioned kid's games, fastdraw contests, chuckwagon meal, Western music, and Wild Bill Hickok impersonators.

When: 1 to 7 p.m. Aug. 6, 7:30 a.m. to noon Aug. 7

Where: Eisenhower Park

Phone: (785) 263-2231 or (800) 569-5915

Admission: Free

Phillipsburg:

What: Kansas' Biggest Rodeo. New this year is miniature bull riding! Great rodeo action with the top cowboys and cowgirls in the nation competing for prize money. Free barbecue Aug. 4; dance following the rodeos Aug. 5 and 6.

Parade through downtown Phillipsburg at 2 p.m. Aug. 6.

When: 8 p.m. Aug. 4-6

Where: Rodeo Grounds

Phone: (785) 543-2448 for tickets

Admission: Varies

Milford:

What: Bluegrass & Old Tyme Music Festival. Camping, concessions, and great music.

When: 7 p.m. July 29, 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. July 30

Where: 8811 State Park Road, Milford State Park

Phone: (785) 238-3014

Admission: \$20

Kansas City:

What: Wyandotte County Fair. Carnival, motorsports, animal booths and food.

When: All day July 29 through Aug. 6

Where: 1405 N. 98th St.

Phone: (913) 788-7898

Admission: Free

Topeka:

What: Mulvane Women's Board Antique Show and Sale. Antique show and sale offering fine art, jewelry, glass, furniture, glass and china repair, and educational seminars.

When: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. July 30 and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. July 31

Where: 18th and Jewell, Washburn University Campus

Phone: (785) 231-1124

Admission: \$4 advance; \$5 gate

Onaga:

What: Pottawatomie County Fair. Rodeo, food, softball tournament, games, livestock, 4-H and open class exhibits, and dance.

When: 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. Aug. 4-7

Where: Pottawatomie County Fairgrounds

Phone: (785) 889-4650

Admission: Free

Council Grove:

What: Quilts on the Prairie. Sixth annual outdoor quilt show, featuring quilts displayed in a historic park, educational programs, and demonstrations.

When: 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Aug. 6

Where: Main Street, Council Oak Park

Phone: (620) 767-5882 or (800) 732-9211

Admission: Free

Belleville:

What: NCK Free Fair. Largest Free Fair in Kansas. 4-H and open class, carnival, vendors, and car races.

When: 8 a.m. to midnight through July 30

Where: Republic County Fairgrounds

Phone: (785) 527-5554 or (877) 248-3462

Admission: Free

Nicodemus:

What: Emancipation and Homecoming Celebration. Annual celebration commemorating the freedom acquired through emancipation.

When: 8 p.m. July 29, 10 a.m. to noon July 30 and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. July 31

Where: Main Street

Phone: (785) 421-2141

Admission: Free

Night Out

continued from page 16

ty support teams to "inform (the community) about the support agencies so people can see them," Barnes said, and also presents an "underlying effort to keep the support community together, and help them work closer together."

Barnes organized the first Fort Riley community event for National Night Out last summer at the Calvary Parade Field. Between 300 and 400 people attended the event last year. Hopefully between 2,000 and 3,000 attend the event this year, Barnes said.

The National Night Out Against Crime program is a nationwide community awareness program geared towards increasing crime awareness in cities and townships across the nation. It began in 1984 by the National Association of the Town Watch, and is a non-profit crime prevention organization that hosts a variety of programs encouraging families to start a community watch programs in their areas.

For more information regarding Fort Riley's participation in National Night Out, contact Barnes at 239-2226.

National Night Out events

*10 a.m.
Activities and tables open;
Target begins basketball shoot-out*

*10 a.m.to noon
Prizes awarded for best at shoot-out*

*1 p.m.
K-9 demonstration*

*3 p.m.
Drawing for two bikes*

*5:30 p.m.
Lifestar helicopter lands*

*6 p.m.
K-9 demonstration*

*7 p.m.
Activities and tables close*

*Twilight
Residents come out into front yard for about an hour*



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Chapel Services



Kapaun Chapel:

- Protestant Contemporary worship service, 11 a.m. Sundays

St. Mary's Chapel:

- Youth Ministry's Club Beyond-JV, 5 to 6:30 p.m. Sundays September through May.
- Youth Ministry's Club Beyond, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Sundays September through May.
- Catholic Women Mass and meeting, 10 a.m. first Thursday of the month September through May.
- Catholic Mass, 11 a.m. Sundays
- Protestant Women of the Chapel 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Morris Hill Chapel:

- Youth Ministry's Catholic Youth Organization, Sundays September through May.
- Protestant Women of the Chapel, 9 to 11:30 a.m. Tuesdays
- RCIA (for anyone who wants to learn more about Catholic teachings and practices), 3 to 4:30 p.m. Sundays September through May
- Protestant Gospel worship service, 11 a.m. Sundays
- Catholic Mass, 9 a.m. Sundays
- Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession), 8to 8:30 a.m. Sundays or anytime by appointment (239-4814).
- Protestant Sunday school, 9:30 a.m. September through May
- Catholic kindergarten through high school 9 a.m. after Mass Sundays September through May at Morris Hill Chapel and Fort Riley Middle School
- Catholic Children's Church, 9 a.m., during Sunday Mass
- Protestant worship service, 9:30 a.m. Sundays
- Lutheran worship service, 11 a.m. Sundays

Main Post Chapel:

- Protestant worship service (traditional), 10:30 a.m. Sunday
- Protestant Sunday school 9:15 a.m. September through May

Hospital Chapel:

- Mass, noon Monday through Thursday

Jewish religious services are available upon request. For more information, call the Installation Chaplain's Office at 239-3359.



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